



711 Louisiana Street, Suite 2900
Houston, Texas 77002-2781
Phone: 713.223.2900
Toll Free: 800.887.1993

Fax Cover Letter

Please deliver the following pages to Examiner Dang D. Le 2834

Fax Number: 1-703-872-9319

This fax is from James E. Bradley

and is being transmitted on 03/31/2003 at _____. The length of this fax, (including the cover letter), is 8 pages.

The fax machine number is 713.221.1212. If you do not receive all pages, please call 713.221.1233.

Message

Re: Serial No: 09/838,741

Filed: 04/19/2001

FAX RECEIVED

MAR 31 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Confidentiality Notice

This fax from the law firm of Bracewell & Patterson, L.L.P. contains information that is confidential or privileged, or both. This information is intended only for the use of the individual or entity named on this fax cover letter. Any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of this information by any person other than the intended recipient is prohibited. If you have received this fax in error, please notify us by telephone immediately at 713.221.1233 so that we can arrange for the retrieval of the transmitted documents at no cost to you.

Houston\1380598.1

Received from < > at 3/31/03 5:25:56 PM [Eastern Standard Time]

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE 37 CFR 1.8(d)	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent by facsimile to Examiner Dang D. Le at (703) 872-9319.	
Date of Facsimile: <u>03-31-03</u>	By: <u>Theresa LeBlanc</u> Theresa LeBlanc

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF
Dick L. Knox, et al.

DOCKET NO. 104-22997

SERIAL NO.: 09/838,741

EXAMINER:
Dang D. Le

FILED: 04/19/2001

TITLE: **Pressurized Bearing System for
Submersible Motor**

GROUP ART UNIT: 2834

FAX RECEIVED**RULE 116 AMENDMENT**

MAR 31 2003

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed January 15, 2003, please amend claims 1, 7 and 12 as set forth below:

1. (Three Times Amended) In an electric motor having a shaft and a bearing located within a housing that is adapted to be filled and sealed with lubricant, the improvement comprising:

a plurality of centrifugal lubricant pump stages located in the housing, each of the pump stages having an impeller attached to and rotating with the shaft and a mating diffuser for pressurizing the lubricant; and

a flow passage leading from the lubricant pump stages to the bearing without passing through any filter for applying sufficient pressure to the lubricant to induce a film of lubricant between the bearing and the shaft.

7. (Three Times Amended) An electric submersible pump assembly for a well, the assembly comprising:

an electrical motor having a shaft and a bearing located within a housing that is filled and sealed with lubricant;

a chamber located in a lower portion of the housing for containing a volume of lubricant;

a flow passage within the shaft leading from the chamber to the bearing without passing through any filter;

first and second centrifugal lubricant pump stages, each pump stage located in the chamber of the housing and each having an impeller attached to and rotating with the shaft and a mating diffuser for pressurizing the lubricant; and

a pump exterior of the motor and connected to the shaft for pumping well fluid.

12. (Twice Amended) A method of operating an electric motor having a shaft and a bearing located within a housing that is adapted to be filled and sealed with lubricant, comprising:

mounting at least one centrifugal lubricant pump stage in the housing, the pump stage having an impeller attached to and rotating with the shaft and a mating diffuser for pressurizing the lubricant;